

Wing SH852A
21
59
Speech in Parliament touching Communica-
tion of Trade. 189

My Lord Chancellor,

When I consider the Ruine and Poverty, which my native Countrey is reduced to by that sensible decay of Trade, ever since the Union of the two Crowns, and that this hath principally proceeded from our being Debarred from any share in that plentiful Trade which our Neighbours of *England* do enjoy; When (I say) I consider this my Lord, It is a great satisfaction for me to see a Clause offered, for obtaining a *Communication* of that Trade; I am indeed of the same mind with these worthy Persons, who considers that this one thing alone, will be able to regain our Riches, and re-establish our Happiness: And I cannot give a more sincere Demonstration of my Compliance with these worthy Members, than by offering my Advice in the matter.

My Lord, I shall not here insist upon the usefulness and Advantage of a *Communication* of Trade. I hope it is obvious to the whole Members within the House. I shall only beg Leave here to point out, what Methods we ought to follow, as provident Men, towards compassing so good a Purchase, and towards Securing to our selves, the Possession of it, when we have obtained it.

As to which, we are to consider, that what we shall thus acquire, must be the result of a Treatie with our Neighbours who are at Freedom to Treat with us, or not, as they shall think fit, and who probably will not very easily be brought to Engage with us in such a Treatie, especially considering that we are to be Gainers, and consequently they shall be the Losers.

As it may be very difficult to bring our Neighbours to any Treaty at all upon this Head, so it will not be very easie to drive them to such Terms as may be Advantageous to us.

But supposing, My Lord, that upon the View of Subjecting our Nation to their Prince, we shall not only Engage them into such a Treatie, but shall likewise thereby tempt them to give us als Advantageous Terms as we can Demand. The great and main Difficulty remains, what Security we shall have, or what Guarrantie they can give, that they shall not resume all the Terms they shall have given us when ever they shall think fit! This is not, my Lord, a bare Speculation or ill grounded Jealousie, for we have been thus Treated by them in former times. Our Priviledges of *poſnati* were als Great, and als well Secured as any we can obtain by any Treaty of *Communication* of Trade whatsoever, and yet they were all swipt off by an *English* Deed, viz. the *Act of Navigation*, And as on the other hand, by their Power so far transcendent to ours, they can by an open Injury defeat this our *Communication* of Trade; So upon the other hand, their influence upon our Prince and Ministry is so plain and so powerful, that we can never expect a Remedy.

I hope it will not be here urged, that this Treaty of *Communication* of Trade will be sufficiently ensured to us, by inserting an Article in it, by way of irritant Clause, whereby it shall be declared, that since we Subject our selves to the same Prince with *England*, upon the expresse Condition that we shall have a Free *Communication* ensured to us; That therefore when ever this Priviledge shall be taken from us, we shall be no more under the Subjection of that Prince.

For my part, My Lord, I think such a Reservation will not at all, amount to the consistence of a Security; The Breach is easily made, but when the Prince is on the Throne, we may bid farewell to Reparation. It is true my Lord, when private Persons enter into Contracts under irritant Clauses, The Civil Judge interposes his Authority, and Compells the Party who violates the Contract, though he be stronger, to do Justice to the other who is weaker: But in this case my Lord, there is no such Appeal, Our King who is the only Judge we can apeal to, is already inevitable predetermined in the event I point at, by having given his Royal assent in his Parliament of *England* to an *Act of Navigation*, which will upon the matter Rescind all the Priviledges we can expect in a *Communication* of Trade, and so he is precluded from giving us Reparation.

Upon the whole matter, my Lord, it appears plain to me, that we can never secure to our selves any benefit, which shall derogate from the benefit of our Neighbours, so long as that benefit does depend upon a Deed, which may be rescinded by any other separate Deed of our Neighbours, unless we shall at the same time be posselt of some Deed, Right, or priviledge of our own, which we shall retain separatlie, and simply in the possession of our own Prince and Parliament; which priviledge must be of that nature as may resolve into some contradistinct Interest of our Neighbours, to the effect it may be made use of by us, in Supplement of that *Communication* of Trade, which (in the case abovementioned) I suppose shall, have been imperiously robbed from us by our Neighbours.

For example, my Lord, if we were possess'd of an Act, lodging the power of Peace and War in the hands of our Prince and Parliament, our Neighbours of *England* must either be oblig'd and overaw'd to continue to us our Communication of Trade, thereby to engage us in their Quarrel: or otherwise if they should Rob us of our Communication of Trade, we shall stand Neuters in the War, and shall thereby reap a vast advantage.

This, my Lord Chancellor, can never be done, unless we secure our selves by such Conditions of Government within our selves, as shall neither depend upon a direct separate Deed of our Neighbours in their own Counsels, nor shall depend upon their indirect and irresistible influence upon our Councils.

My Lord, I am so anxious to have this Communication of Trade accomplished, and to have it ensured to us beyond the reach of our injurious powerful Neighbours, that I wish this Honourable House would embrace this happy Opportunity of falling upon some such Expedients, as would satisfy so valuable a project.

My Lord, I have heard and considered a proposal offered by an Honourable Peer, which I think designs a very fair Capitulation for the security of this Commerce, it does in very short express terms, point out at such Conditions of Government, which being most reasonable enacted in this Session of Parliament, shall serve as an absolute Security and Pledge in our own hands, for obtaining that valuable Communication of Trade, and for preserving it, when we have obtained it.

My Lord, I think the Objections that are made against the generality of the terms of it, are so fully answered, that I need say little upon the head. It's true my Lord, it points at many things, but they are all so good, that I think none of them can be omitted. It points at the security of the Honour and Independencie, Religion, Liberty, and Trade of this Kingdom.

I suppose, my Lord, it is plain to all this House by several late woful instances, that all these have been attackt, and particularly our Trade, and if a Capitulation shall be made in this Act, that such Settlements and Securities as it points at, shall be enacted in this Parliament, I shall not despair, my Lord, that before next Session of Parliament, this valuable Communication of Trade, shall be ready for the Vote of the House.

I find My Lord, that there are some oblique Insinuations made against the generality of this Clause, as if it might point out something by name of *Limitations*, as might be dishonourable to the Crown, or incroaching upon the Prerogative.

In the first place My Lord (as I have said already) let the Articles of the Clause be never so general, they point out nothing, but what is plainly good in it self.

In the next place, if under the shelter of a good and well meaning Article, any thing shall be afterwards brought in which does not answer so good a meaning, the House is not concluded by this general Clause, let them throw out any such impertinent Overture, when it shall come afterwards to be made.

For my own part, My Lord Chancellor, I have alwise had that deference for the Prerogative, that I have ever considered, that the power of the People, is both safely, usefully and conveniently lodged, when it is in the hands of the Prince, but this is not our case My Lord, for no Man within this House but must see, that we are not here struggling with our Prince, whether he shall have the Power, or we shall have the Power; The plain case at present is, whether the Parliament of *England* shall have the power of our Prince, and our parliament lodged in their hand, or whether we shall assume such a reasonable share of our own Power, as may enable our Prince and us to withstand the masterful Dictats of an *English* Parliament, and as may enable our Prince and us, to drive the *English* Nation to grant us a free Communication of Trade, and may secure to us the possession of it when we have got it.

I can see very plainly, my Lord, That this Proposal of a Communication of Trade, is Patronized by two sorts of People, The one are such as have a true sence of the Advantage the Nation would reap by it, and these do shew themselves disposed, and ready to enter into such Clauses as may most effectually secure that Purchase in all events: The other are such as seem to me, to have no regard for the thing, seeing they push it in, naked and disarmed, after they have stript it of its security.

My Lord, I shall not insist any longer upon this matter, I hope this Honourable House, is sufficiently convinced of the vast Advantage this Nation will have by the Communication of Trade, And that this Communication of Trade, can never be secure to us, by any Treaty whatsoever, unless that we shall be possess'd of such Handles within our selves, independent of our Neighbours, as may secure that valuable Purchase, or any thing else, which may Contribute to raise the power of our Princes, and the interest of our Subjects, in Contradistinction from that over-topping power, which the Parliament of *England* hath over both.

And therefore my Lord, I second the Motion for securing the Communication of Trade, by adjoyning it to the general Clause.